

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed October 28, 2008.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 15-26 were pending in the present application. This Amendment amends claims 1, 4, 5, 15, 21, and 22, cancels claims 20 and 24-26 without prejudice, and adds new claims 27 and 28. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by virtue of these amendments. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21 and 24-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 21 and 24-26. As discussed below, the subject matter of claims 24-26 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 15, and 22 respectively. Claims 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection of Claim 20

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Doyle (U.S. Patent No. 7,134,012, hereinafter “Doyle”).

Claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 20 is moot.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 15-19, 22, and 23

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 15-19, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rayes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,234,163, hereinafter “Rayes”) in view of Iyer et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0254474, hereinafter “Iyer”).

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, the allowable subject matter of claims 24-26 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 15, and 22 respectively. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 15, and 22, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2, 4-8, 16-19, and 23 depend from claims 1, 15, and 22 and derive patentability therefrom.

New Claims 27 and 28

New claims 27 and 28 have been added to cover various embodiments of the present invention. No new matter is added.

Claims 27 and 28 recite features that are substantially similar to the allowed subject matter of claims 24-26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27 and 28 are also in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the Specification as filed and do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/631,091
Amdt. dated January 28, 2009
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2008

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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